

PLUMAS NATIONAL FOREST
Biological Assessment and Biological Evaluation
Short Form

Project Name: **Cresta AML** District 03 Date 10/16/2019
Project Type: Construction ☐ Nonstructural ☐ Reconstruction/Maintenance ☒
Location: Adit 1: 637254.0E, 4411561.1N Adit 2: 637283.9E, 4411553.7N Adit 3 637289.7E, 4411544.0N
Location (Legal – Attach map) T.23N R.5E Sec.14 SW¼ SW1/16
Project Actions: Close Adit 1 with bat gate. Both other (larger) ones can be closed.
Vegetation/Habitat Mixed conifer / hardwood near Bear Ranch Creek

I. Prior Biological Evaluation				No	Yes
1. Prior Project:	NA	Date:	NA	X	
II. Species and/or Habitat				No	Yes
1. Survey Date: May 23, 2019	Biologist is familiar with the Project Area.				X
2. Previous Species Observation (Heritage Database)				X	
3. Federally Listed Species Present				X	
4. Habitat For Federally Listed Species Present				X	
5. Sensitive Species Present					X
6. Habitat For Sensitive Species Present					X
III. Analysis of Effects				No	Yes
1. Significant Habitat Alteration				X	
2. Effects Outside Project Area				X	
3. Cumulative Effects on Listed Species or Habitat				X	
4. Cumulative Effects on Sensitive Species or Habitat				X	
IV. Determination of Effects				No	Yes
1. May Affect Threatened, Endangered, or Proposed Species				X	
2. May Affect Individual Sensitive Species				X	
3. May Affect Sensitive Species' Population Viability				X	
V. Consultation Requirements				No	Yes
1. Formal Consultation Required				X	
2. Additional Informal Consultation Required				X	

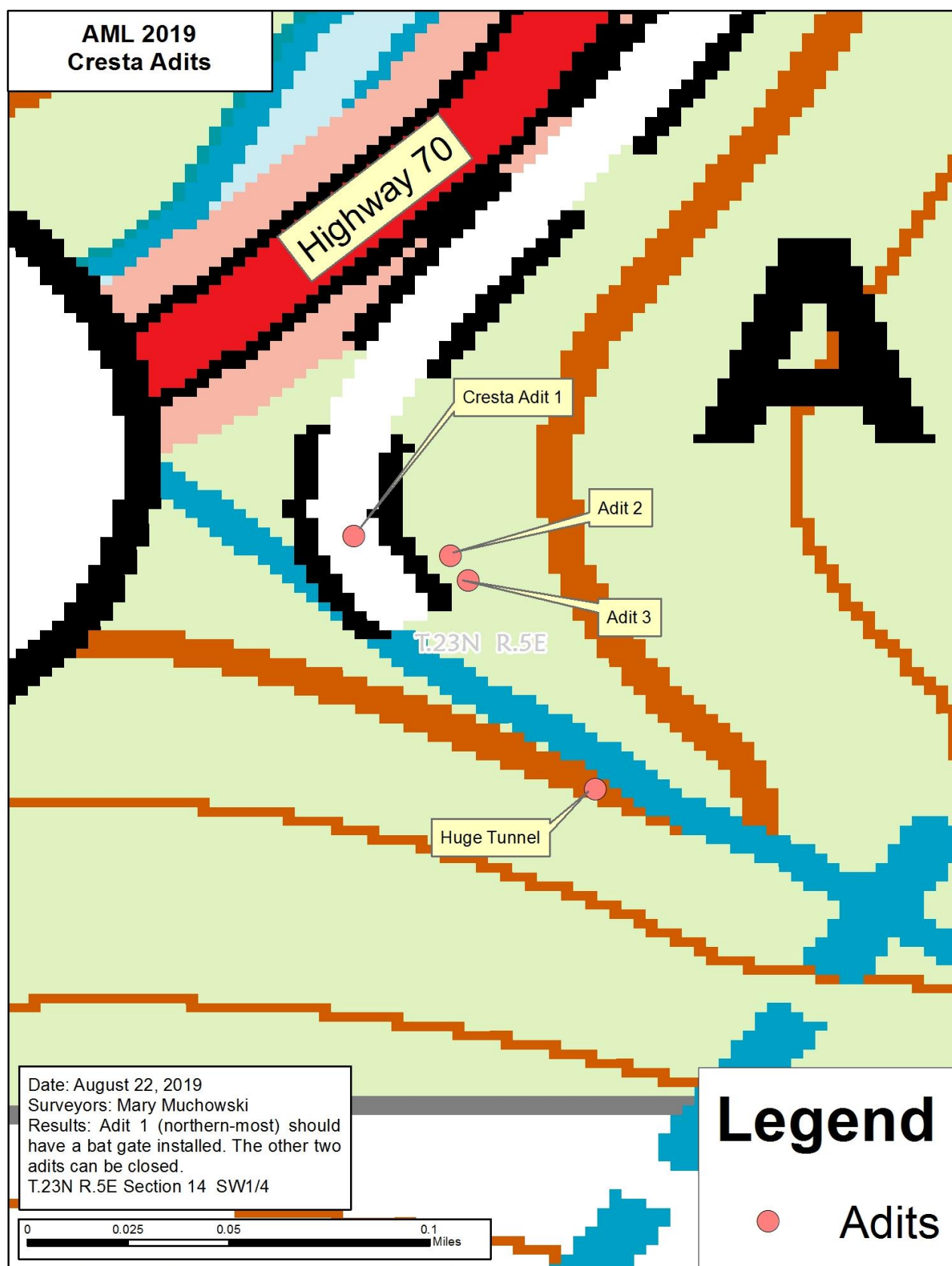
We determined that only the northernmost Adit 1 requires a bat gate. The other two adits with the larger entrance openings can be closed. Constructing a bat gate in Adit 1 with the smallest entrance will enhance bat habitat by keeping humans out. See attached survey summary, map and pictures. This project is a benefit for bat species.

This adit is not within the elevation range (4500'+) for the federally endangered Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog (*Rana sierrae*) and there are no historical detections. Therefore, the determination is a no effect to SNYLF. There will be no impact to Forest Service sensitive species from this project.

Written by: Mary Muchowski, Wildlife & Aquatics Tech, FRRD Date: October 16, 2019

Reviewed & JoAnna Arroyo District Biologist, FRRD Date: October 17, 2019

Approved By:



Document Path: T:\FS\NFS\Plumas\Program\2600Wildlife\GIS\Data\BaseData\FRRD\2019_NRIS_MAP.mxd

Map created Sept 16, 2019 -- mem

Cresta AML

Site Visit

Summary of Results

The adits provide bat roosting and foraging habitat. One bat gate is required on the northernmost Adit (Adit 1 on map on page 2). The other two adits with large openings can be closed.

Project Site Location

Legal Description: T23N, R5E, Sec. 14, SW1/4, SW1/16

Adit 1: Lat/Long: 39.5842986 N, -121.395771W

Adit 2: Lat/Long: 39.842914 N, -121.395424 W

Shaft 1: Lat/Long: 39.842826 N, -121.395358 W

Surveyors

Mary Muchowski, Jacqueline Amor

Survey Date: May 20, 2019 **Survey Time:** 14:30 – 15:50

Mary Muchowski

Survey Date: August 22, 2019 **Survey Time:** 13:30 – 14:00

Weather Conditions

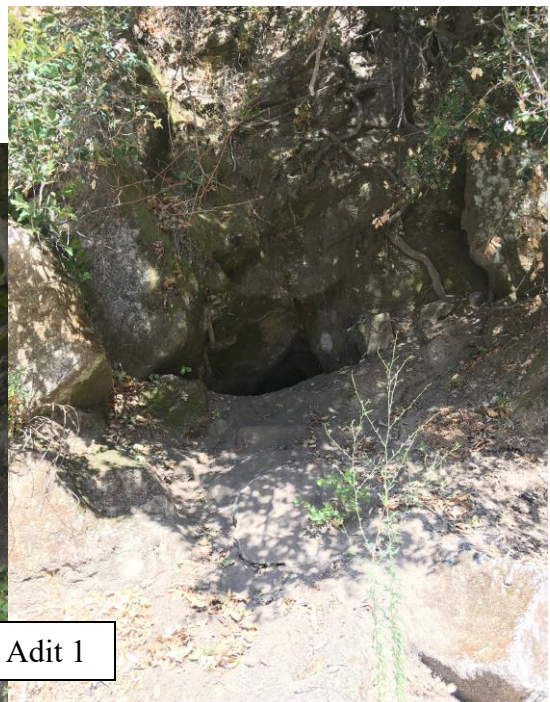
Sky: clear **Wind:** calm (0-5mph) **Temperature:** 82°F

Mine (shaft) Description

Adit 1 is the northernmost Adit along the road that accesses Bear Ranch Creek. It has an entrance opening about 3'x4.5', but opens up larger just inside and down from the entrance. This adit requires a bat gate. There was evidence of bat use, and it is possible it would get more use after humans are excluded.



Cresta Adit 1





Adits 2 & 3 are further southeast along the access road and both have large entrance openings allowing for easy access by humans. Neither of these are very deep, and are more open than bats usually like. There is a lot of evidence of human disturbance in the two larger adits. These two adits can be closed.

Methods and Results

We assessed the adit for potential bat use by looking for bats, bat guano, prey remains and roosting habitat. We were unable to do a night survey of these adits due to time constraints and lack of personnel, therefore we are using our daytime assessment to make recommendations for a bat gate on Adit 1 only.

Determination

The adit and surrounding forested and open areas provide necessary roosting and foraging habitat. A bat gate will provide bats continued use of the Cresta adit. A new study published (A. Tobin, 2018) in the Journal of Wildlife Management suggests that maintaining entrance dimensions when installing a gate helps provide access to the bats and preserves the roosting conditions of the mine. We recommend using a bat gate that approximates the current size of the opening (approx. 3' x 4.5') or as large as feasibly possible on Adit 1. Adits 2 and 3 can be closed.